

# CALL THE BALL

VOL.2 NO.44

The Newsletter of the 130th Composite Squadron

Mar 2002

## Activity - March 2002

### 5th BLUES

ALL MEMBER SAFETY - Jones

1ST AID - Rosinni \*Those that are complete with 1st AID GTM - Craswell

### 12th BLUES

AEROSPACE - Roedder / Jazwinski

MORAL LEADERSHIP - Mikitta / Priest \*Mikitta Farewell party!

### 19th BDU

PT

1ST AID - Rosinni

### 26th BLUES

OPEN TESTING

FLIGHT TIME / DRILL



## COMMANDERS CORNER

by Capt J. Craswell

Moral Leadership and the Military Chaplain. Once every ten or so years I decide to talk about a deep subject in the Commanders corner. This "decade" I thought I would offer some thoughts about the chaplain program. In the 9 years I've been involved in CAP we have had a number of Chaplains come and go. Most of us are familiar with Chaplain Mikitta. Chaplain Mikitta is a dynamic fellow very involved in both the Chaplaincy and Cadet Programs. Very soon now we will see him replaced by our in house Chaplain C.

Priest. And while some units are not fortunate enough to have a Chaplain all units must have a Moral Leadership officer! Did you know that at one point we very nearly had a Buddist Moral Leadership officer? I wonder how that might have impacted us. Has it ever concerned you that our Chaplain may not be of the same faith as you? If I can speak about Buddhism again for a moment. I've been told the basic precepts are Cease to do Evil. Do Only Good. Do Good for Others. Clearly doing Moral Leadership from this perspective would not be out of line with our program. Could a Jewish, Catholic or Muslim do less? Of course not. In fact I'm reminded that many of the great religions have similar texts. For example I believe the story of Abraham is shared by Muslim, Christian and Jew alike. I think the best thing about the United States is that it offers Liberty and Freedom to all its people. There is no State Religion, nor a prohibition against one. From its start this goal of Freedom, Liberty and Equality has been an outspoken shining example. Part of that freedom is the free ability to worship God in our own way. Be it Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist or whatever WE decide. Not what our leaders decide is "best" for us. Likewise the Chaplain does not decide our beliefs for us. The ideas of our country have been forged along a hard path with a bloody Civil War and a hundred thousands other tears shed to continue to make that dream come true. I come from an Irish background mixed with Scot and English blood. In the old country (even now) the Irish and English are at war with themselves. In the old days the Irish were treated little better than garbage. Coming to America they took jobs such as Policemen (like my "Pop") that would never have been available in their native lands. And (thankfully) today these class distinctions do not exist. Not long ago a white family would fall over dead (Or more likely the black suitor) if one of its members married an African. Yet, now my family has two American-Africans in it. How I wish the people of all warring countries could come to a place like the Americas to "reset" their grievances and discover that through our differences we together are stronger. Well that's it for this decade. I would like to close the Commanders corner this month with a message from one of America's greatest writers.

## THIS I BELIEVE by Robert Anson Heinlein

I am not going to talk about religious beliefs but about matters so obvious that it has gone out of style to mention them. I believe in my neighbors. I

know their faults, and I know that their virtues far outweigh their faults. Take Father Michael down our road a piece. I'm not of his creed, but I know that goodness and charity and loving kindness shine in his daily actions. I believe in Father Mike. If I'm in trouble, I'll go to him. My next-door neighbor is a veterinary doctor. Doc will get out of bed after a hard day to help a stray cat. No fee -- no prospect of a fee -- I believe in Doc. I believe in my townspeople. You can knock on any door in our town saying, "I'm hungry," and you will be fed. Our town is no exception. I've found the same ready charity everywhere. But for the one who says, "To heck with you -- I got mine," there are a hundred, a thousand who will say, "Sure, pal, sit down." I know that despite all warnings against hitchhikers I can step to the highway, thumb for a ride and in a few minutes a car or a truck will stop and someone will say, "Climb in Mac -- how far you going?" I believe in my fellow citizens. Our headlines are splashed with crime yet for every criminal there are 10,000 honest, decent, kindly men. If it were not so, no child would live to grow up. Business could not go on from day to day. Decency is not news. It is buried in the obituaries, but it is a force stronger than crime. I believe in the patient gallantry of nurses and the tedious sacrifices of teachers. I believe in the unseen and unending fight against desperate odds that goes on quietly in almost every home in the land. I believe in the honest craft of workmen. Take a look around you. There never were enough bosses to check up on all that work. From Independence Hall to the Grand Coulee Dam, these things were built level and square by craftsmen who were honest in their bones. I believe that almost all politicians are honest... there are hundreds of politicians, low paid or not paid at all doing their level best without thanks or glory to make our system work. If this were not true we would never have gotten past the thirteen colonies. I believe in Rodger Young. You and I are free today because of endless unnamed heroes from Valley Forge to the Yalu River. I believe in -- I am proud to belong to the United States. Despite shortcomings from lynchings to bad faith in high places, our nation has had the most decent and kindly internal practices and foreign policies to be found anywhere in history. And finally, I believe in my whole race. Yellow, white, black, red, brown. In the honesty, courage, intelligence, durability, and goodness of the overwhelming majority of my brothers and sisters everywhere on this planet. I am proud to be a human being. I believe that we have come this far by the skin of our teeth. That we always make it just by the skin of our teeth, but that we will make it. Survive. Endure. I believe that this hairless embryo with the aching, oversized brain case and the opposable thumb, this animal barely up from the apes will endure. Will endure longer than his home planet -- will spread out to the stars and beyond, carrying with him his honesty and his insatiable curiosity, his unlimited courage and his noble essential decency. This I believe with all my heart.

**Base Radio** by Lt Ployhar The Radio will be cycled between members who have the ROA card and a working VHF antenna. Contact me to get on the rotation so you can get some On Air Net time.

**BlackCAP 2002.** The annual Minnesota Wing BlackCAP, organized by Red Wing Squadron, will be held April 5-7. This is a fun, not-so-serious emergency services/overnight activity. Members who have attended in past years rave about the amount of fun they had. Senior member POCs for this activity will be the DCOC 1LT Rosini ((952)953-9313 (651)248-2957

**WING CONFERENCE.** Cadets who are planning on attending the annual Minnesota Wing Conference May 3-5 should let SM Sandy Willhite 952) 460-6821 know ASAP. We need to see how many rooms we need. Transportation for cadets will be provided. (NO CADETS will drive themselves without permission. Participation is with the unit (Fully Chaperoned) or not at all. The conference will be held again at Breezy Point Resort near Brainard. Cadet activities at the conference usually include a social Friday night, a general presentation Saturday morning, breakout groups Saturday afternoon, a banquet and military ball Saturday night. The resort also of-

fers an indoor swimming pool and hot tub, as well as many video games, pool tables and air hockey. Cost for the hotel will run around \$30 (two nights). This is in addition to the conference fee.

**Chaplain Program by Chaplain C. Priest** Under the direction of the commander, the chaplain assumes general responsibility for the moral and spiritual welfare of unit personnel, cadet and senior members alike. The CAP chaplains, like their military chaplain counterparts, are professional clergy endorsed or recommended by their religious denomination. That means they are first of all a clergy representing their religious body to the unit and are required to be faithful to their own beliefs and traditions as approved by their denomination. However, as a military chaplain, they are also endorsed to work with members of other religious traditions. The CAP chaplain then has a dual responsibility. First, they must be faithful to their faith and their denomination. Second, they must be faithful defenders of the First Amendment rights of all CAP members. This means **they will be equally supportive and respectful of other people's traditions and beliefs.** The chaplain will wear the insignia of their faith group (Christian, Jewish, Muslim, etc.) and be addressed as "chaplain" because of the first duty. They wear the insignia of their grade or rank because of the second duty.

#### Why I hate Paintball.

When paintball was first gaining popularity I was asked by a number of people why I a "GI Joe" was not interested in this fun sport. When I was first asked this I honestly couldn't put it into words. Now after some thought I think part of it is my early training in fire-arm safety. Frankly the rule of never pointing a gun - ANY gun at anything I didn't intend to kill and eat sunk in. Dad taught me that lesson when I was still riding a bike with training wheels. Maybe more relevant I once worked with a very serious (And quite possibly slightly crackers) ex soldier who had no tolerance for any variance in the golden rules of gun safety. A coworker had been given the bosses 9mm to look at decided it was playtime. He ran around the garage area of our workplace pretended to be a secret agent until the barrel of this gun pointed momentarily at my associate. In about a half seconds time "007" found himself flat on his back with my associate pushing 8 or 9 inches of gun into his mouth while he asked pithy things such as, "how do you like it? Are we having fun yet? I wonder how many this shoots?" Pulling the trigger on a gun crammed into your mouth even one your pretty sure is unloaded will make a big impression. **ALL GUNS ARE ASSUMED LOADED.**

**ALL THE TIME.** He then demonstrated in graphic form everything you should never do with a firearm. It made a big impression on me and I think "007" as well as giving him a bad taste from the gun oil. When he handed the firearm to me I automatically worked the slide to insure it was not loaded. Which clearly after all the "firings" it was not. But... You ALWAYS check. And you NEVER point a gun at anyone. Not "unloaded" firearms, not BB guns, and I include Paint-

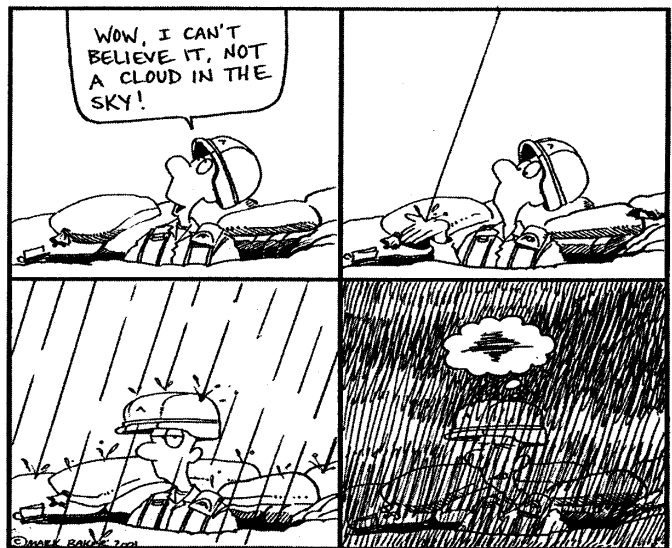


**SAFE FIREARMS USE AT BASIC ENCAMPMENT**

<http://www.mnwg.cap.gov/130th>

#### Pvt. Murphy's Law

by Mark Baker



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ball guns. In addition the idea of shooting people (even with paintball) leaves me with a bitter taste in my mouth. We have all been saturated with TV shows that glorify shooting people down and the clean quiet way they all sink down and die. I ain't got time to bleed etc. "Arnold" may not be a great actor but boy can he pull the trigger. In my early years I went to Police School to follow in my "pops" footsteps. Part of that training involved studying a year's worth of murders. Real people do die from gunshots. Not one that I saw was a Hollywood death. Screaming, barfing, the works. Did you know the dead all crap and pee in their pants? Good clean fun, eh? Frankly I don't like sneaking around in the woods either. When I spent a summer with the Canadian Army Cadets I got a small taste of Army life. Living in the same stale cloths for several weeks at a time. Trying to move as quietly as possible while a woods full of semi crazy riflemen are dreaming of ways to fire off a BAR magazine of blanks into my face. Frankly even though it's not real it's still NOT fun. In fact it scared the daylights out of me to have three guys corner me a few feet from safety and simulated blow me away. **\* treat every gun is if it were loaded \* always point the gun away from people \* keep your finger away from the trigger until you are ready to fire \* keep the action open (un-fireable) until ready to shoot.** When you use paintball to shoot anything OTHER than another Paintballer you are a clod at best, more likely a vandal or criminal.

**Your Parents Math:** A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is 4/5 of the price, or \$80. What is his profit?

**Math now:** By cutting down beautiful forest trees, the logger makes \$20. What do you think of this way of making a living? Topic for class participation after answering the question: How did the forest birds and squirrels feel as the logger cut down the trees? There are no wrong answers.

#### LATE BREAKING NEWS - HORAH GROUND TEAM!!!

A mighty HORAH to the 13 member Ground team that was rolling in short order and finding and switching off a Lakeville ELT in under 45 Minutes!

**WELL DONE!**

Send News to -> [w0vne@arri.net](mailto:w0vne@arri.net) (952)447-3819